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Carter Assails Demands on Tokyo

TOKYO, July 20 (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter said here today that it was a "mistake" for the United States to make public demands on the Japanese Government in the areas of defense and trade.

To demand "a certain percentage of defense expenditures," he said in a televised interview on the TBS network, is "not only ill-advised, but counterproductive."

The United States has urged Japan to make more substantial increases in military spending to meet its five-year buildup plan and take more responsibility for its own defense, including the patrol of 1,000 miles of sea lanes.

The Japanese Government recently decided to hold military spending to 6.88 percent of its budget for the fiscal year beginning next March, only a slight increase from the previous year.

"These kinds of decisions ought to be made by the Japanese officials in your country, not by American politicians in Washington," Mr. Carter said.

Despite the recent trade disputes between the United States and Japan, Mr.

Carter said there was "no greater trade relationship in history." He added that during his Presidency he tried to resolve differences privately and not "try to blame the economic problems of our country on Japan."

Mr. Carter also touched on such issues as school violence, strikes by teachers, high-technology spying by the Russians and the arms race. He was not asked about the campaign documents that were apparently leaked by someone in his camp to Ronald Reagan's campaign workers in 1980.

When asked about the dangers posed by Soviet industrial espionage, Mr. Carter said England's, France's and Japan's recent expulsions of Russians for spying were "vivid proof of how far ahead of the Soviet Union we still are." And he said there was no danger that the Soviet Union could soon become "harmfully competitive" in technology with Western industrialized nations.

Mr. Carter repeatedly praised former Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, who died here in 1980 and whose funeral Mr. Carter attended.